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## RIO DE JANEIRO, May 26, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit report for the week ended May 23, 1896:

There were 7 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, a decrease of 2; 23 from yellow fever, a decrease of 7; 2 from smallpox, an increase of 1; 8 from beriberi, a decrease of 5; 3 from enteric fever, and 1 from whooping cough, the same as in the foregoing week, and 39 from tuberculosis, a decrease of 2. From all causes there were 339 deaths, a decrease of 34.

*Yellow fever*.—This disease is gradually decreasing, but not so much as the cooler weather would justify. It looks as if the disease will run through the winter.

*Smallpox*.—One more death this week, which is not as bad as the cooler weather usually makes it.

*Beriberi*.—This disease appears to be declining, though, besides the cases reported, there have been some 30 cases in the military school, but as they were all at once sent to the southern part of the country, we have no way of knowing the mortality.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected or received bills of health from this office: May 20, Brigantine *Brazil*, Portuguese, for Philadelphia, Pa. May 21, steamship *Delecarlia*, German, for New York, and steamship *Tolosa*, British, for Norfolk, Va. May 22, steamship *Endsleigh*, British, for Tampa, Fla. May 23, bark *Arnfuin*, Norwegian, for Ship Island, Mississippi; bark *Ethel*, American, for Barbados, West Indies, and steamship *Byzanz*, German, for New York. May 25, ship *Falls of Dee*, British, for New York.

I saw announced in the newspapers that on the 23d of May the Portuguese bark *Bella Formigosa* sailed from this port for New Orleans, La., via Pernambuco. She did not apply for a bill of health at this office.

Respectfully, yours,

R. CLEARY, M. D.,  
Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

## CHINA.

*Outbreak of the plague in Foochow.*

FOOCHOW, CHINA, May 11, 1896.

SIR: I regret to have to report to you that the bubonic plague, which ravaged Foochow so last year, has again appeared. The manner of its breaking out was very similar to that of last year, the epidemic commencing at the west and east gates of the city, respectively, and thence rapidly spreading. The cases that have occurred near the west gate have been mostly just outside the walls of the city proper, while those in the neighborhood of the east gate have generally been found a short distance inside the walls. A few cases have been noted in other parts of the city and its suburbs.

As is invariably the result wherever it appears, the plague is causing the death of large numbers of rats. In human beings the progress of the disease is marked by the swelling of the lymphatic glands and by other well-known characteristics, making its identity unmistakable. Yet, in spite of all this, there are merchants here who deny that there is any bubonic plague in Foochow. Even the port physician declines to admit the facts. It was exactly the same last year. Thousands had died of the plague before the tea merchants or the port physician would acknowledge the real situation. However, there is an epidemic here.

It makes no difference whether it be called bubonic plague or be designated by some other term more pleasing. It is contagious and deadly just the same, several members of the same family often dying from it within a few hours.

Since the plague is as yet confined to parts of the city some 4 miles distant from the section in which shipping is generally carried on, there does not appear to be any present need of interfering with exports to the United States. Moreover, the chief export from Foochow to the United States is tea, and this ought to be especially free from contamination, it being brought from the upland country districts in boats traversing the Min River, and conveyed directly to foreign honges or warehouses, where it is stored to await shipment.

If either the plague or the cholera, or both, become general, the mortality will be much greater than what it was last year, owing to the fearful sanitary conditions brought about by the rains, which have prevailed here so long. It is raining now; it has been raining nearly all the while since the 1st of January.

You will be kept duly informed of the progress made by the plague.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

J. COURTNEY HIXSON,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

CUBA.

*Smallpox in Cienfuegos.*

CIENFUEGOS, *May 30, 1896.*

SIR: I sent to-day the following cablegram: "State Department, Washington. Smallpox. McGarr."

Smallpox has existed here for several weeks, confined to the negro and very poor white population, but the latest mortality report shows a great increase in the number of deaths, and indicates that the disease has assumed the proportions of an epidemic. There were 42 deaths from smallpox in the last weekly report, an increase over the previous week of 24.

The population of the city by the census of 1895 was 24,030.

Notwithstanding the mortality from the disease, but few deaths have occurred outside of the classes above mentioned, which have an aversion to vaccination.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

OWEN MCGARR, *Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

FRANCE.

*Contradiction of report of cholera in Havre—Precautionary measures with regard to emigrants from Egypt.*

HAVRE, FRANCE, *May 19, 1896.*

SIR: I herewith inclose for the information of the Department an extract from the "Independance Havraise" of this date.

The rumor cabled from New York that cholera has appeared in this city is without any foundation in truth. Not a single case of cholera or cholerine has existed here since 1893, and the health of the city at this time is exceptionally good.